

## BRIEFS

### 'COMFORT LEVEL' WITH LGBT PEOPLE TAKES HIT

NASHVILLE (BP) — The pro-homosexual advocacy group GLAAD released survey data Jan. 25 indicating, for the first time since GLAAD began releasing such data in 2014, that levels of reported comfort decreased among so-called "straights" in situations involving homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender individuals. "It is possible that the results could signify the onrush of gay activism is beginning to reach the sea wall of Bible-believing Christians," said Bob Stith, the Southern Baptist Convention's former national strategist for gender issues and founder of Family and Gender Issues Ministries in Trophy Club, Texas.

### BLACK LEADERS GATHER AT RIDGECREST IN JULY

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The Black Church Leadership and Family Conference celebrates its 25th year July 16-20 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C. The conference theme, Still Turning Things Around, is based on Isaiah 45:22-25 and is also the focus of the fall 2018 YOU Bible study curriculum, LifeWay's urban and multicultural series. 2018 marks the curriculum's 10th anniversary. Registration and additional information are available at ridgecrestconferencecenter.org.

### RELIGIOUS AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED BY SENATE

The U.S. Senate on Jan. 24 confirmed Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, to the post of ambassador at large for religious freedom when U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, also a Republican, cast the deciding vote to snap a 49-49 tie along party lines. All the votes against confirmation came from Democrats, even though Brownback was a colleague to many of them during his 14 years in the Senate. David Stacy with the Human Rights Campaign said Brownback's "extremist, anti-LGBTQ actions should disqualify him from representing the people of the United States."



**FULL HOUSE** — More than 185 people crowded into Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, for the fourth of five Church Safety Seminars held across the state in January sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The success of the seminar series has led to the announcement that two additional seminars have been scheduled with trainers from Ft. Sherman Academy in Pinehurst, Id.: March 19 in Meridian and March 20 in Hernando. (Photo by Barri A. Shirley)

## Church safety a top priority Packed seminars lead to encore presentations

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Sold-out sessions across the state in January have prompted organizers at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

(MBCB) to add two more sessions to the Church Safety Seminars series in March in Meridian and Hernando.

"MBCB is being proactive in providing resources and training to maintain a safe environment for worship and minis-

try," said Steve Stone, associate executive director for church growth. "The response from those who attended the Fort Sherman Academy training in January ranged from an overwhelming 'thank you for providing this for us,' to 'the leaders are outstanding and know what they're doing.'"

"Who would have ever dreamed that in church we would one day be dealing with

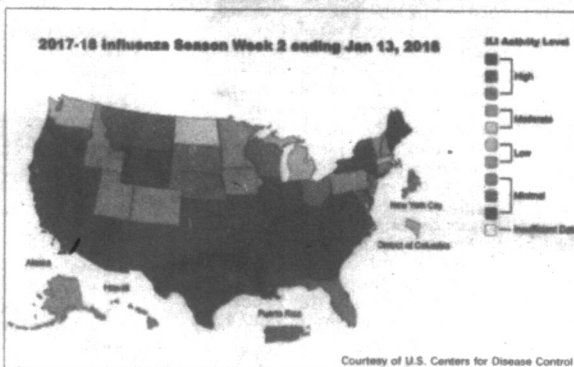
see SAFETY on p. 9

## Flu has churches taking precautions

DALLAS, Ga. (BP) — Johnny Nix of Pickett's Mill Church asked volunteers to consider staying away. Like so many other churches, Nix and the Dallas, Ga., church he leads are locked in a battle with the flu.

"We've instructed our volunteers and workers to postpone coming by for a couple of weeks if they or someone in their family has had it," Nix told Georgia Baptists' Christian Index news journal. "That may seem a little extreme, but we're taking every precaution necessary." Pickett's Mill Church isn't awash in volunteers. "It's very difficult when you're short on workers," said Nix, who began at the church last June, "but it's necessary to provide the safest environment for our church family."

The U.S. Centers for Disease



Control (CDC), in its latest report on Jan. 6, stated that 49 states have reported "widespread influenza activity."

Dan Jernigan, director of the

CDC's influenza division, said in a Jan. 12 news media briefing, "What we're seeing is the

see FLU on p. 9

## Dead Sea Scroll may clear up timeline

HAIFA, Israel (BP) — A message from one of the last two untranslated Dead Sea Scrolls may contain a clue to help Bible scholars reconstruct the chronology of Jesus' final week on earth.

Researchers at the University of Haifa in Israel have pieced together and translated 42 encoded fragments of a scroll that explain the structure of a year according to the 364-day calendar employed by the first-century Jewish Qumran sect, which lived in the Judean desert and authored the scroll.

While the Qumran sect's use of a 364-day calendar was known from previously-translated ancient documents, the newly-translated material published in the winter 2017-18 issue of the Journal of Biblical Literature reveals the Hebrew name of a festival the sect observed to celebrate each change of season: Tekufah ("period" in English).

In contrast to the 364-day calendar, the more mainstream Pharisees and Sadducees employed a lunar calendar, which at times placed Jewish festivals on slightly different days.

see SCROLL on p. 9

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### The Church is still here

It's been over two and a half years since the activist judges on the U.S. Supreme Court legislated same sex marriage nationwide, and the walls of the Church of Jesus Christ have not collapsed. In consideration of that fact, perhaps we can take time now to relax, take a deep breath, and move past our original disgust and exasperation to give some thought to the future.

The five black-robed justices who engineered another new constitutional right out of thin air sounded more like TV soap opera enthusiasts than experienced jurists. Anthony Kennedy, the Reagan appointee who provided the swing vote that put same sex marriage over the top, said in the majority opinion he wrote: "The nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality. This is true for all persons, whatever their sexual orientation."

Referring to people who wish to avail themselves of same sex marriage, Kennedy wrote in another section of the majority opinion, "Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions."

The overwrought emotional manipulation in the majority opinion was not lost on the dissenting members of the court. The late Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "The [majority] opinion is couched in a style that is as pretentious as its content is egotistic. It is one thing for separate concurring or dissenting opinions to contain extravagances, even silly extravagances, of thought and expression; it is something else for the official opinion of the Court to do so."

To say that a majority of Mississippi Baptists would be in opposition to the court's ruling, written as it is in such mawkish style, is a confident guess. Even so, there is nothing that can be done on the civil side. The justices removed the several states' legal and political ability to address the issue.

Messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Columbus, Oh., passed a resolution in anticipation

of the court's soon-to-be-issued ruling. The resolution read in part:

*The Southern Baptist Convention calls on Southern Baptists and all Christians of like-mindedness to stand firm on the Bible's witness on the private purpose of marriage, which is to unite man and woman as one flesh; and the public purpose of marriage, which is to secure the basis for the flourishing of human civilization.*

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said after the ruling was announced, "Everyone has been waiting for the Supreme Court to tell us what we believe. Baptists are people of the Bible and when Scripture and the Supremes clash, we will stay with the Bible. Same sex marriage, though now the law of the land, is not to be found in Scripture. We will continue to practice biblical lifestyles."

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Commission in Nashville and a Biloxi native, said, "Marriage in the minds of the public may change, but marriage as a reality created by God won't change at all."

No court at any level can ever strike down the Word of God. Nothing on this earth can prevent us from obeying God and following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, even when we have to stand against established authority (Acts 4:13-21) and pay a high price for our civil disobedience (Hebrews 10:32-34).

All this court ruling can do is distract us from the most important mission with which Christ Himself charged us: to lead the world to Him (Matthew 28:18-20). That mission is daunting enough. Let us not be led astray by the pressures of this world, demanding as they are. No doubt there are challenges ahead. No doubt we are moving toward the end of time. No doubt we have much to do before Christ returns.

On that glorious day may we be judged faithful to our mission, no matter what the Supreme Court says. If we are to be true to our faith in Jesus, we simply don't have another choice.

## Are you OK with Jesus, but not the Bible?

Our 11-year old and six-year-old daughters, the oldest of our five children, love Play-Doh.

They have all the Play-Doh colors and tools necessary to mold, shape, and build anything their vivid imaginations come up with. Children are drawn to Play-Doh because they believe they can create anything they want. Plus, if they don't like how it turns out, they can roll it in a ball and start over.

I believe this is like those who talk about Jesus but don't actually read the Bible. "I love Jesus," we've heard people say, "but I don't agree with the Bible."

Perhaps some of us don't have an issue with Jesus because it's a Play-Doh Jesus we've created by our own imagination. We'll shape and mold Him to be what we want Him to be, then the moment He no longer appeases us, we roll Him up and start over.

When we dive into His Word to discover who Jesus really is, we'll begin to be passionate about what He is passionate about. We'll be angered by what angers Him. We'll tolerate what He tolerates. We'll view things the way He views things. We'll live how He lives.

The Jesus of the Bible will regularly disrupt our lives and stand in opposition to our personal preferences. He challenges our indulgences and our egoistic art of "looking out for No. 1."

Left to our natural devices, we don't want to be created in God's image; we want Him to be created in our image. We want Him to be the clay in our hands. We want to shape and mold our god to care about what we care about and tolerate what we tolerate. We want to label Him as a Republican or Democrat. We want to picture Him as white, black or brown. Let's be honest. In our self-absorbed pursuit of happiness, His holiness — His call to deny ourselves and His commandments to love others — can all get pretty annoying.

If this idea of what you've created Jesus to be comes to mind when you worship, pray, sing, serve, and live, then



Guest opinion  
with Shane Pruitt

ultimately it is the worship of some created idol, a misrepresentation of the God of the Bible, one to whom you've simply attached the name, "Jesus."

If you truly love the Jesus of the Bible, you will also love the Bible that tells us all about Him. We know nothing about the true person and the life of Jesus apart from the Holy Scriptures.

Jesus said we must worship in "spirit and truth" (John 4:24). An accurate view of Him is absolutely necessary to authentic worship.

So, who is this Jesus of the Bible? According to Colossians chapter one, He makes the invisible God visible (v. 15). He is the firstborn over all creation (v. 15). All things were created through Him and for Him, and He is the One who sustains all things (v. 16-17). He is the head of the church, the first-ranked over death by His resurrection and pre-eminent in all things (v. 18). This means Jesus surpasses all, ranks above all, and deserves first place in everything. We're not in control. He is.

At the end of the day, our opinions about Him do not change who He is: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). However, our faith in the real Jesus will absolutely change who we are.

Pruitt (@shane\_pruitt78) is director of evangelism for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in Dallas. This column first appeared at his website, [shanepruitt.com](http://shanepruitt.com), and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

## THE BaptistRecord

**Editor**  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
[wperkins@mbcb.org](mailto:wperkins@mbcb.org)

**Associate Editor**  
Tony Martin  
[tmartin@mbcb.org](mailto:tmartin@mbcb.org)

**Layout/Design**  
Megan Young  
[myoung@mbcb.org](mailto:myoung@mbcb.org)

**Advertising**  
Dana Richardson  
[drichardson@mbcb.org](mailto:drichardson@mbcb.org)

**Circulation Manager**  
Amy Massey  
[amassey@mbcb.org](mailto:amassey@mbcb.org)

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Whit Lewis, New Albany  
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko  
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Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Send news, communication, and address changes to:** The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Tel:** (601) 968-3800  
**Fax:** (601) 292-3330  
**E-mail:** [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org)

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"Failures are not final... You can move forward by the grace of God... You can have the mental toughness [to say], you know what, I am going to get up today and surrender again [to God], and surrender again."

Hugh Freeze



"My prayer was this very eloquent prayer — 'God, help me.' That was it, and immediately it was like, 'Are you going to focus on your hurt or are you going to focus on your healing?' and I was like, 'I want healing.'"

Jill Freeze

**POWER OF FORGIVENESS** — Former Ole Miss head football coach Hugh Freeze (left) tears up as he listens to his wife Jill as she speaks of forgiving him for a moral failure, during a Jan. 24 convocation at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. Hugh Freeze resigned his Ole Miss post after officials there accused him of personal misconduct. (BP screen capture from Liberty University/YouTube)

## Freezes share path back to marital, spiritual stability

**LYNCHBURG, Va. (BP and local reports)** — Hugh Freeze made his first public appearance Jan. 24 since resigning as Ole Miss head football coach last year in a scandal involving phone calls to an escort service.

Freeze spoke during an hour-long convocation at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., along with his wife Jill and his pastor Chip Henderson of Pinelake Church, a five-site Southern Baptist congregation in Mississippi based in Brandon. The Freezes attended the church's Oxford campus.

Freeze resigned his Ole Miss post July 20 after it was allegedly discovered that he had engaged in a "pattern of personal conduct inconsistent with the standard of expectations for the leader of our football team," according to school athletic director Ross Bjork.

Freeze said the Liberty convocation was "really the first day I can tell the faith family, 'I am sorry, please forgive me.'" Known on Twitter as a coach with a fervent faith, Freeze said he had admitted the moral impropriety to his wife in 2016 before it became public last summer.

He wrote on Twitter Jan. 24 that he was "hopeful our story can help someone!"

The Liberty visit also followed the Dec. 1 report of the NCAA rulings regarding Ole Miss football infractions. The NCAA did not delve into Freeze's personal conduct but rather investigated supervisory issues at Ole Miss.

Freeze received a two-game suspension if he is hired as head coach by another university, but no penalties if he assumes a lesser position.

Freeze told the convocation crowd of 13,000, "Failures are not final... You can move forward by the grace of God... You can have the mental toughness [to say], 'you know what, I am going to get up today and surrender again [to God], and surrender again.'"

"I cannot control what people say, what people think, nor can you, Freeze, 48, continued, "but I can make up my

"The win is to shepherd [Freeze] through this valley. To really keep bringing him back to the core values of his faith, his love for Jesus, true to himself, love for his wife, honoring his family...Whatever God may or may not do, it will rise and fall on the genuine repentance and brokenness and walk that he has with Jesus."

Chip Henderson

pastor of Pinelake Church, Brandon

mind and my mind is set. It is settled, my eyes are clear. My heart is full. My feet are pointed forward and I am looking forward with thanksgiving to what God has for me and my family next because of His great love and His great forgiveness."

He told the crowd that with God, "you can do the same in 2018."

Freeze spoke of one of his three daughters being angry over what she had seen in social media and online media outlets. "I tell her, 'Baby, your dad did something wrong and he has to be accountable.'"

When his wife spoke after his 20 minutes of comments, a reporter for the SEC Country website noticed that Freeze teared up.

"I can remember that moment of just screaming in my head," Jill Freeze said in recounting her husband's 2016 confession of his marital sin. "My prayer was this very eloquent prayer — 'God, help me.' That was it, and immediately it was like, 'Are you going to focus on your hurt or are you going to focus on your healing?' and I was like, 'I want healing.'"

"Immediately in that I was able to see him. His heart. I mean, I've lived with [Hugh] for 25 years. This man is the godliest man that I have ever known. I am who I am in Christ because of this man and the impact and influence he has had on me... I know he's going to do what it takes to get right with God and so for that, it was easy enough in that moment to say, 'I forgive you,' like immediately."

"That was the beginning of my healing and it was instant forgiveness for

him. It led me to 'I can see that he had some bad traits,' you know? He had some bad traits and God, in His greatness, instead of me focusing on [Hugh's] bad traits He said 'Jill, what are your bad traits?' I've got a whole lot of bad traits, and [Hugh has] forgiven me a whole lot more than I've had to forgive him over 25 years."

She noted, "I want [God's] power. I want His peace. I want His provision. I want His protection, but the only thing I need is His presence. There are times when I'm seeking His presence and I feel God, the angel armies, and I am ready to go... and there are times I am broken on the floor and He is picking me up and He is putting me in His Father-lap and He is rubbing my hair and He is pouring His love over me and singing over me in His presence and I walk out of there with peace and rest."

The Freezes' pastor told the convocation audience that in the valley of brokenness, it is important to show people they are loved.

"There is going to be a moment in your life where you need the grace of God to be tangible and real because a lot of people who are your best friends when everything is great will walk smooth out on you whenever stuff starts hitting the fan," Chip Henderson said.

It is also important that "the fullness of what brokenness really looks like" is realized, he added.

"The win is to shepherd [Freeze] through this valley," Henderson said.

"To really keep bringing him back to the core values of his faith, his love for Jesus, true to himself, love for his wife, honoring his family..."

"Whatever God may or may not do, it will rise and fall on the genuine repentance and brokenness and walk that he has with Jesus."

Freeze coached Ole Miss to a 39-25 record during five seasons, 2012-2016, including three bowl wins in four appearances and two regular season wins over top-ranked Alabama teams. The 2015 victory was Alabama's only loss in its drive to the national championship.

In mid-January, Freeze was in the media limelight over the possibility of joining Alabama coach Nick Saban's staff but no announcement had been made as of Jan. 25.

In the NCAA investigation of Ole Miss, apart from Freeze, the university was accused of lack of "institutional control" over 15 infractions, placed on probation for three years and banned from 2018 postseason play, among other penalties.

"Off the field, [Freeze] promoted an atmosphere of compliance and expected his staff to abide by the rules," the NCAA stated. "However, throughout his tenure, the head coach also violated NCAA head coach responsibility legislation because he failed to monitor his program's activities surrounding the recruitment of prospects."

"Members of his staff knowingly committed recruiting violations, submitted false information on recruiting paperwork and failed to report known violations."

Freeze has been on Twitter only sporadically in recent months, but on Jan. 7 he took note of that day's sermon at Pinelake Church, tweeting, "I need corporate worship today to remind me there is a great Savior whose grace has the power to rescue the lost, rebels, the proud, the weak, the weary, and the foolish from themselves."

Video of the Liberty University convocation service can be viewed on YouTube.

I was talking on the phone and after the conversation concluded, I ended the call in the usual way by saying, "Bye." That was the end of that moment, but following the phone conversation I got to thinking about that one little word: bye. Of course when I was saying bye or goodbye on the phone, it was the bye spelled b-y-e. However, the sound has three very different meanings and usages. Bye means so long. Buy mean to purchase, and by can be used in a variety of ways.

I began thinking about all of the times in the Bible that by is found. Later, when I had time, I searched for the very first time by is used in the Bible. There it was in Genesis 7:2, where they were gathering the animals together by twos to bring them into the ark. That in itself was an interesting mental avenue to travel down and think about two by two and the preservation of species beyond the flood and what God was doing in the midst of all of that. Just as a thought, I looked in Scripture to find the last time by is found. It is Revelation 21:25, "And the gates of it (the city of God) shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." God has opened it up to us forever and ever.

As you think about that little two letter word - by - it is found almost anywhere in the Bible. As you focus on it, you will find God doing amazing things with that word. For example, if you begin to look for by in Matthew you will find it at the beginning and the end and the middle. Let me just show you how it unfolds with great truths all around it.



## Bye - Buy - By

In Matthew 1:21, you will find the announcement of Jesus has just been given: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Listen to verse 22: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet." By is a word of fulfillment reminding us that the word of God is always true. It will never fail. The word that had come about Jesus's arrival was by the prophet.

Sometimes when you and I begin to wonder what is God doing and why doesn't He do something, just remember that while heaven and earth will pass away, His word will always stand true and faithful. In this case in Matthew, Jesus is announced by the prophet, but He is the fulfillment of all that God had been doing for us through the centuries. Now, at His

birth, it could be seen. You can trust God anytime, all the time. You can anchor your life in His word. He will not fail you but again and again, it will be fulfilled that God is at work in your life.

A second by in Matthew is found in Matthew 13:4. The Scripture says of the sower, "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up." This is a by of failure because when Jesus interpreted the parable, this portion of the parable is explained by Jesus in verse 19 when He said, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."

This is Satan himself represented as the birds snatch away the word

that had been sown on the heart. It's not a failure of the word, for sure. It's not a failure of the sower, but when a heart is unresponsive and unresponsive of the word Satan has opportunity to snatch it away. It is amazing when in a congregation everyone out there is represented as having soil. Their heart is like soil that either can take in the word or be hardened and unpenetrated by the word. Sometimes the word falls along the sidelines of your heart and Satan brings about a distraction.

The last by found in Matthew is in Matthew 28:13. This is a really interesting by. It is a by of frustration. In Matthew 28:13 it says the disciples of Jesus were accused of stealing His body by night. There they were, being accused of stealing His body, the body of Jesus, to negate the power of the resurrection and that word that was getting out. What a frustration it must have been to them. What a frustration it is for us to live in a world that so many times distorts the message. Then and now the truth of the power of God is in the resurrected Jesus who comes and makes all life, all things new for us in Him. That message is skewed, distorted, negated, and often ignored by this world that would push Him aside.

By. What a small word. By the power of God, you and I can continue to serve that living Jesus, and by His power, share the Gospel of Jesus that makes a difference in everyone who comes to faith in him.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## College News

► America's former CIA director, General Michael Hayden, will serve as the keynote speaker at Mississippi College's spring 2018 scholarship dinner. Set for April 24, the annual signature event has generated more than \$3 million for student scholarships. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. that Tuesday evening at Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus. Individual tickets cost \$200. Ticket prices start at \$1,500 to purchase a table at the event. For more information, contact Amy Rowan of the Office of Advancement at [rowan@mc.edu](mailto:rowan@mc.edu) or (601) 925-3257.

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Clue: F = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah 5:16

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## MS POSITIONS

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH IN VAIDEN, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE/YOUTH PASTOR. Please send resumes to youth search committee, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, MS 39176 or email resumes to [info@vaidenbaptist.com](mailto:info@vaidenbaptist.com)

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Chairman - Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pine Hill Circle, Mendenhall, MS 39114.

THOMPSON BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHDALE, MS SEEKS A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC TO LEAD IN WORSHIP SERVICES AND ALL ASPECTS OF MUSIC. Send resume to: [tbcfinancial@yahoo.com](mailto:tbcfinancial@yahoo.com) or mail to Minister of Music Resume/ 5422 N Greensburg Rd., Smithdale, MS 39664.

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MAIN STREET BAPTIST IN GOODMAN AND PICKENS BAPTIST IN PICKENS ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A PASTOR TO SERVE BOTH CHURCHES. Services are Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Pickens and at 11 a.m. in Goodman plus a Wednesday Bible Study at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in Goodman. If interested in this position, please email your resume to the pastor search committee at [sdfifly73@gmail.com](mailto:sdfifly73@gmail.com).

## CLASSIFIEDS

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FULL-TIME PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S PASTOR: The First Baptist Church of Mauldin, S.C. is seeking a full-time Preschool and Children's Pastor. Send resumes to First Baptist Mauldin, 150 South Main Street, Mauldin, SC 29662 or email [wleopard@fbcmauldin.org](mailto:wleopard@fbcmauldin.org). For more information, visit [www.fbcmauldin.org](http://www.fbcmauldin.org) to view the job profile and job description.

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**M**y sweet mother, Faye Ellen Digby, taught ninth grade English and literature. As one of her many students, I read "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. "It was the best of times, and the worst of times" during the French Revolution. We are living in the best of times and the worst of times.

Thanks to you, Mississippi Baptists and the Christian Action Commission, I had the opportunity on January 17-19 of representing all of you at the Evangelicals for Life Conference in Washington, D.C. I learned much about the pro-life issue and heard many great speakers on that Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

What a privilege for me to be a part of the March for Life on our National Mall. It started under the Washington Monument and ended in front of the Supreme Court Building. My meeting kept me in Washington on the next day, Saturday. As we moved about, we were mindful of a second march in Washington. These two marches on consecutive days reflected a "Tale of Two Cities."

I call the two days Good Friday and Sad Saturday. They were a "Tale of Two Marches." Friday's March for Life was huge. Our 45th President addressed the 45th March for Life live via satellite from the Rose Garden in the backyard of our White House. The speakers on Sad Saturday were the typical liberal politicians who care nothing about Religious Liberty.

We (Becky, Bailey, Kaleb, and I) were in the middle of the Friday March. It took us forever to get to the Supreme Court building. We then took advantage of the Jefferson Building (Library of Congress) being just to the south. When we came out of the Library of Congress two hours later, the March for Life was still going. Thousands and thousands were standing up for the unborn. At the beginning of the march, there were masses of people from the Capitol all the way to the Lincoln Memorial. The size of Friday's March

## A Tale of Two Marches



**SUPPORTING LIFE** – Kenny Digby (front, second from left), executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, attends the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., while participating in the 2018 Evangelicals for Life Conference on Jan. 17-19.

shut down the bus system, the "circulators." During Sad Saturday, the bus system worked fine.

I felt a little bit like Forrest Gump, but we were not protesting about death, we were celebrating life. We

do need to end the war (not in Vietnam, but the war on the unborn). I had always wanted to be on the Mall at a Biblical, moral rally – thanks to you, our family was.

The March for Life was multi-generational. We are winning on the pro-life front with the younger generation. Youth and college students were everywhere. Both genders (there are only two) were well represented on Friday. The March for Life is growing. So, when it comes to Generations, Genders, and Growth, the March for Life is winning.

I visited the Holocaust Museum on Sad Saturday. There were "death marches" from concentration camps retreating into Germany as the Nazis tried to hide the truth of their genocide. Ironically, the Nazis called this tragedy the "Final Solution." Today those who are "pro-abortion" prefer "pro-choice," but neither the Jews had a choice nor do unborn babies today have a choice.

We need a solution for abortion – the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would help. We have wandered in the wilderness for over 40 years (January 22, 1973). A whole generation of Americans have been murdered.

We must be consistently pro-life (that includes many complicated, medical issues such as some stem cell treatments or some research and development of vaccines). However difficult, we don't need to cop out; we must be courageous and compassionate.

We have at-large slots open for the Christian Leadership Institute for high school young men at Blue Mountain College July 9-13. If your association, church, Brotherhood/Men's Ministry or family would like to sponsor someone, call us. We need future leaders who will be PRO-LIFE.

*Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.*

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## Staff Changes



**SHILOH SOUTHERN CHURCH, MAN-TACHIE**, has called Blake Buchanan as youth minister. Shown are Donny Cates, Ray Smith, Buchanan, and Ronald Harris.



**FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**, has called Marty Wilson as pastor. He comes with his wife, Debbie. Shown are David Hollingsworth, Debbie Wilson, Wilson, and Fred Johnson.



**INGOMAR CHURCH, UNION COUNTY**, has called Chris McCluskey as minister of students beginning Jan. 1. He is a native of Oxford and a 2010 graduate of the University of Mississippi. He recently graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.



**CENTRAL CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, has called Glenn Jackson as pastor beginning Jan. 2. He comes from Neshoba County where he has served the last 9 1/2 years as AMD.

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## Just for the Record



**SHILOH CHURCH, SONTAG**, celebrated a note burning for their fellowship hall. The building was paid off three years ahead of schedule. Shown, center, is pastor Ed King and former pastor Andy Fullington who was pastor when the project started.



The adult and children's choirs of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, presented a cantata including instrumentals. Norman Huggins, music director.



The children of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, collected bottles for their annual baby bottle fundraiser for the Crisis Pregnancy Services.



**NEW HOPE CHURCH, FOXWORTH**, recognized B.B. Stringer for participating in the church's Sunday School ministry every Sunday for 62 consecutive years. When his health caused admission to a nursing home, he immediately joined a telephone class taught by Sherman Pounds. He is seen receiving a plaque from pastor Tim Parker, bearing a poem written by Tommy King 30 years ago citing Stringer's perseverance.



**SEMINARY CHURCH, SEMINARY**, ordained Christopher Wren as deacon Jan. 21. He is shown with pastor and father-in-law Tim Hubbard.

### In other Church News:

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will host The McKameys in concert Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Love offering. For information, call (601) 583-3733. Hal Hood, pastor.



The WMU of **FIRST CHURCH, OLOH**, donated purses filled with toiletries and other items to Safe Haven Outreach Ministries in Columbia. Shown are Nancy Chain, Jane Aultz, Arlene Aultman, Jane Lott, Wayne Mims, Sue Pace, and Ruth Johnson, director of Safe Haven.



**CRESTVIEW CHURCH, PETAL**, celebrated pastor Stephen Smith's ten-year anniversary serving the church. Shown are Smith and deacon chairman Carroll Powell.



**FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, held an ordination service Jan. 21. Shown are Scotty Swillie, pastor, Northside Church, pastor Matt Buckles, and Chris Williams, pastor, Wayside Church.



**CENTERPOINT CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, worshiped in its new facility Dec. 31, 2017.



**WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH, WILLIAMSVILLE**, held a Christmas party recently for women. "Santa" dropped by to play games as a variety of soups were prepared and served by the hosts.



# University must reinstate Christian club, court rules

**DAVENPORT, Iowa (BP)** — The University of Iowa (UI) in Iowa City must temporarily restore registered status to a Christian student group kicked off campus for allegedly violating the school's human rights policy, a U.S. district court ruled Jan. 23.

The school must restore registered status for 90 days to Business Leaders in Christ (BLinC), which the school accused of violating the human rights of an applicant because he identified as a homosexual. The Davenport, Ia., court decision allowed BLinC to participate in a campus membership recruitment event Jan. 24 that BLinC said is crucial to its growth.

The court did not address BLinC's religious freedom in particular and based its decision instead on BLinC's claim that its rights to freedom of speech and "expressive association" had been violated. Specifically, UI discriminated against BLinC when compared to other student groups among some 500 on campus, the court said.

"In light of this selective enforcement, the Court finds BLinC has established the requisite fair chance of prevailing on the merits of its claims under the Free Speech Clause," Judge Stephanie M. Rose wrote in issuing the decision. "Because BLinC has established the required likelihood of success on one of its claims, the Court will not address BLinC's claims under the Religious Clauses."

BLinC's attorney Eric Baxter, senior counsel of the non-profit Becket Fund for Religious Liberty said the decision is a first step in ensuring the student group is not penalized for its faith.

"The Court agreed that the University has to stop discriminating against BLinC because of

its religious beliefs," Baxter said in a press release today. "Every other group on campus gets to select leaders who embrace their mission."

In issuing its decision, the court said "BLinC may seek further action as necessary, and Defendants may respond by detailing any changes to the enforcement of its Human Rights Policy to registered student organizations."

Baxter expects UI will issue a decision this year to "permanently allow BLinC to stay on campus and pick leaders who embrace its faith."

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, Eastern Division, issued the ruling after hearing arguments last week. The case arose from circumstances dating to March, 2016, when a BLinC member who said he was pursuing homosexual relationships requested to serve as BLinC's vice president, according to case materials posted at Becketlaw.org. When BLinC's president told the student that she (the president) needed to discuss his candidacy for leadership with the rest of the executive team, the student filed a complaint with the university.

The university told BLinC to "revise" its statement of faith or face revocation of its status as an on-campus group.

BLinC, established on campus in the fall of 2014, desires "to help students learn about how to continually keep Christ first in the fast-paced business world," according to BLinC's constitution.

While interested students may join BLinC, the group limits leadership posts to students who "seek to live out" biblical principles. The group has about 10 members, according to its attorneys.



**RESTORED** — A U.S. district court ruled Jan. 23 that the University of Iowa must temporarily restore registered status to a Christian student group kicked off campus for allegedly violating the school's human rights policy by disallowing a homosexual student to run for club office. (BP/University of Iowa photo)

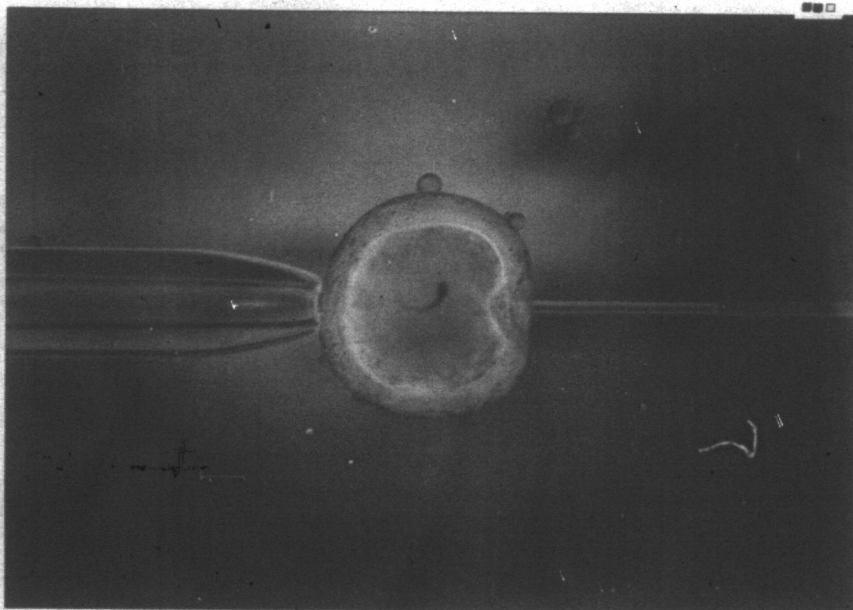


Photo by Christoph Burgstedt/Shutterstock.com

## Chinese monkey clones trouble Southern Baptist bioethicists

**SHANGHAI (BP and local reports)** — The first-ever primates cloned through the technique that produced Dolly the cloned sheep have been cited by Christian bioethicists as a potentially valuable development in animal research, but they warn that the two monkeys engineered by Chinese researchers must not become a step toward cloning humans.

"While lauded as a valuable scientific breakthrough, even a quiet inference fortified by this experiment that human life is merely the result of cellular manipulation brings our culture ever closer to the slippery slope of crucial ethical and eugenic dilemmas," said Raymond Johnson, pastor of The Journey Church in West Chester, Pa., who has studied the confluence of Christianity and science.

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Neuroscience announced in a Jan. 24 article for the journal *Cell* that they produced two genetically identical, long-tailed macaque monkeys using a scientific technique known as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT).

The technique involves removing an egg's nucleus and replacing it with a nucleus from another cell, replete with the replacement cell's genetic material. The egg then is stimulated to develop into an embryo and implanted in a surrogate mother.

Using a tweaked version of SCNT, the Chinese team discovered cells from aborted

"Human cloning cannot pass ethical muster. The potential risks to unborn human life cannot be justified."

**C. Ben Mitchell**

**editor of the journal Ethics & Medicine**

monkey fetuses worked better than adult cells for providing genetic material. Some 181 embryos cloned from adult monkey cells were implanted in 42 surrogates, yielding two live births. Neither monkey baby survived beyond 30 hours, the researchers wrote.

However, 79 embryos were cloned using fetal cells were implanted into 21 surrogate mothers and yielded two live births and both infant monkeys seemed to develop normally.

They were named Hua Hua and Zhong Zhong — names derived from the Chinese word *Zhonghua*, meaning "Chinese nation," according to CNN cable news channel.

C. Ben Mitchell, a bioethicist at Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn., told Baptist Press (BP) that attempts to clone humans using the version of SCNT pioneered by the Chinese team would violate biblical standards by destroying unborn humans in the cloning process, among other sins.

"Human cloning cannot pass ethical muster," said Mitchell, editor of the journal *Ethics & Medicine*. "The potential risks

to unborn human life cannot be justified."

In addition, health problems experienced by previous animal clones should yield caution in future cloning experiments, Mitchell said.

Dolly died at age six in 2003 with signs of advanced aging despite being well shy of the 11- to 12-year lifespan some sheep experience, BP reported at the time.

"Dolly was not a healthy sheep," Mitchell said in written comments. "She had a number of anomalies that made her life less than ideal."

Hua Hua and Zhong Zhong seem to be developing normally and will continue to be evaluated as they age, CNN reported.

The Chinese team said it has no intention of cloning humans, according to USA Today. The researchers wrote in *Cell* that cloned primates are "ideal animal models for studying physiological functions unique to primates and for developing therapeutic treatments of human diseases."

Mitchell pointed out that with even animal experimentation there are ethical limits. "Animal cloning is subject to the same ethical standards as other animal experimentation. There is no need to inflict unnecessary suffering on animals."

Twenty-three species of mammals have been now cloned using SCNT, the Chinese researchers noted. Primates have been cloned previously using a simpler method, according to media reports.

# Tornado only boosted resolve of WCU community

FINAL IN A TWO-PART SERIES

By Mia Overton  
Correspondent

A lot of thankfuls come to mind for student Lindsay Knight when she thinks back to that day in January 2017 when an EF-3 tornado swept away so much of the William Carey University (WCU) main campus in Hattiesburg.

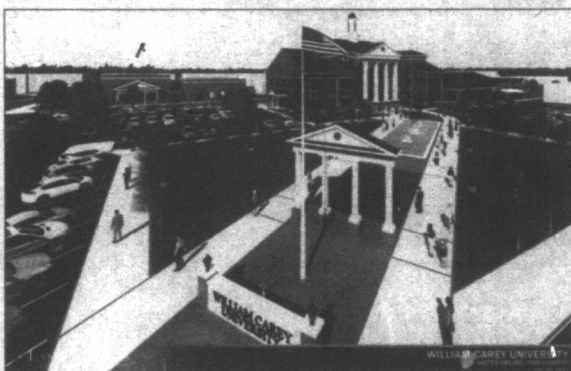
"I am thankful to God that no lives were taken, that our university sought to prevent our educations from being compromised, and that our neighboring university, USM (University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg), opened its dorm, classroom, and cafeteria doors to us," she said.

"I am able to stand on campus today and look at the massive recovery Carey has made over the past year. Construction crews have worked tirelessly, and their efforts are reflected in the re-opening of all damaged buildings, the construction of multiple new buildings, and simply the ability to even walk and drive on campus again.

"I am thankful for the progress our university has made since the storm, and I am anxious to see how it continues to improve over the years to come."

A year removed from the widespread destruction left by the huge storm, all the campus buildings that could be saved are repaired and in use again. It is apparent that the recovery could not have happened so quickly without the Hattiesburg community and the people, churches, and businesses from around the state and even the nation that supported Carey.

"The Mississippi Baptist Convention and individual churches of the convention provided amazing prayer support, financial support, and encouragement during this tragedy," said WCU President Tommy King. "Dr. [Jim] Futral, executive director-treasurer of the



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, came to campus the day the tornado struck and gave us the assurance of the convention's support.

"It is at times like this that we are most proud to be Mississippi Baptists."

With the repairs complete, WCU is now in the construction phase of its recovery.

The medical school's anatomy lab was destroyed in the storm and had to be rebuilt. "This enabled us to build a larger, even better-equipped lab than before," said King. "This is important because we are one of only a few universities that provides undergraduate students the opportunity to work with cadavers."

Five new buildings are under construction to replace those lost in the storm. The new Ross and Johnson Hall dorms will replace the old dorms, built in 1919. Each dorm will house 96 female students, and construction is expected to be completed for fall trimester in August 2018.

The new Asbury Academic Building will house the School of Arts and Letters classrooms and faculty offices that were in the old Tatum Court, which was a total loss and is being replaced with a building that will go by the same name.

The Asbury Building will also include the Lucile Parker Gallery, which was previously housed in a building on Tuscan Avenue that was destroyed in the storm. This building also will be completed for the fall 2018 trimester.

Construction is underway on an addition to the Joe and Virginia Tatum Theatre. The theatre department was in the basement of the old Tatum Court. The new building will include a scene shop, costume shop, acting lab, a small department library, a classroom, and faculty offices.

The theatre addition will be completed in time for the Carey Dinner Theatre productions in summer 2018.

"The new addition upgrades the functionality of the theatre program and provides the students with a modern, safe, quality, and high-tech learning and working environment which will attract new students to the program and foster a 'Carey Strong' future for the department as a whole," said Keone Fuqua, chair of the theatre and communication department.

Groundwork has begun for the new Tatum Court. The original Tatum Court was built in 1914 and was the oldest building on campus. Portions of the roof were ripped off during the storm, caus-

ing extensive interior and structural damage.

The new three-story Tatum Court will serve as a centralized administration building and provide much-needed space for special events and banquets. In addition to the new building, the entrance to campus will be redesigned and feature a structure that is a tribute to the old Tatum Court and a water fountain.

King said the university would never want to experience something like the tornado again, but there have been blessings that came out of the storm. When all the construction is complete, the university will gain 42,000 square feet of classroom and office space.

The storm also boosted school spirit among students, faculty and staff, and the larger campus community. "There were many people who wanted Carey to succeed and to pull through this," King said.

In the days following the

storm, King reassured the campus family and supporters that Carey would come back stronger than ever. "Carey Strong" became more than a slogan; the students, faculty and staff demonstrated their strength and their faith that we would overcome in this trying situation," he said.

After the storm, the Bible always on display in the ruined campus chapel was found tattered and wet, but opened to Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Carey adopted the psalm as its theme for the 2017-18 school year. The campus and its supporters have demonstrated this Carey Strong commitment for the past 12 months — and will continue to do so as the university looks toward the future.

Overton is WCU media relations and marketing coordinator. Edited for style and clarity.

## 75 FOUNDATION FLASHBACK

Highlights from the history of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation, shared in the format of their original publication in *The Baptist Record*

Originally published July 4, 1963

### Success Stories

Of The

#### Mississippi Baptist Foundation

By Harry Spencer, Executive Secretary

(First Of A Series)

A Mississippi family had a very fine son who was a captain in the Air Force during World War II. He lost his life while on duty in Europe. The family established a fund in his memory in our Baptist Foundation before 1950 and prior to my connection with the Foundation.

One Sunday afternoon I spoke in an associational Sunday School meeting. When the meeting adjourned I felt a tug on my sleeve and turned; the man was the father of this young Air Force officer and said that he wanted to talk with me before I got away, and what he said was, "I just want to tell you about our boy."

That fund has grown as the years have passed. Members of the family send in occasional checks. His aunt formerly sent \$100 on his birthday; now that she is retired she sends \$50. The principal of the fund is now \$3,045.00. Foreign missions is the beneficiary, and last year the income sent to the Foreign Mission Board was \$213.39. Contrast this with the per capita gift of Southern Baptists to foreign missions, which was \$1.95.

>>>> Visit [msbaptistfoundation.org](http://msbaptistfoundation.org). Call 601-292-3210, or e-mail [foundation@mbcb.org](mailto:foundation@mbcb.org) to learn how the Mississippi Baptist Foundation can serve you, your family, and your church.

## Truth is not relative.

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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## FLU

cont. from p. 1

season has started early and that it's probably peaking right about now... In terms of the numbers, this week... there's 22.7 hospitalizations per 100,000 people in the United States.

"That's up from 13.7 last week, so that's almost doubling in terms of the numbers, just in the last week."

Prompted by such reports, churches are taking extra steps. At Second Church in Warner Robins, Ga., hand sanitizer stations have been placed on the walls around the lobby and auditorium and in each nursery and children's room, pastor Jim Perdue said.

During the cold and flu season the church usually skips the normal welcome time to prevent germs from spreading via hundreds of handshakes, Purdue said.

At First Church in Cartersville, Ga., members and visitors were encouraged to replace handshakes with a "warm wave" during the welcome time.

Lisa Lovett, First Church children's ministry director,

also sent an email to parents and volunteers addressing the flu. Normally, a 24-hour rule is imposed for how long a sick child should stay away from Sunday School. Lovett encouraged that the time frame extend back to Friday.

If a child was sick on Thursday, she asked parents to call church staff to determine if it's safe for them to be there Sunday morning.

At Second Church, preschool coordinator Donise Woodrich and children's pastor Ben Hunley work to take appropriate measures for the church's youngest attendees through recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics Infectious Disease Control.

Second Church urges any children or volunteers to stay home if they've experienced flu-like symptoms, including fever reaching 100.4 degrees and vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours.

Joel Southerland, pastor of Peavine Church in Rock Springs, Ga., recounted that disinfectant foggers, which worked well at a church where he previously pastored, are being considered at Peavine Church.

## SAFETY

cont. from p. 1

shootings, identity theft, fraud, and so many dangers to our children and youth? We cannot ignore the reality that these evils are staring us in the face today."

Fort Sherman Academy, located in Pinehurst, Id., "trains and supports organizations in faith-based security and risk management. We assist in the furtherance of their mission by training them to better avoid, protect, and survive potential or actual adverse events thus allowing them to reach every corner of the globe," according to the academy's web site (fortsherman.org).

Plans call for the Meridian session to be conducted March 19 at 15th Avenue Church. The March 20 session in Hernando will be held at Hernando Church. Both sessions are one day in length, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m.

More than 258 Mississippi Baptist churches sent representatives to one of the five January sessions that were held at First Church, Gulfport, on Jan. 8; Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, on Jan. 9; First Church, Batesville, on Jan. 22; Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, on Jan. 23; and Country Woods Church, Byram, on Jan. 24.

Registration at the five sessions totaled over 827 people and included pastors, staff ministers, lay volunteers, and others responsible for safety on Sundays and for events throughout the week at their churches.

"Church safety is everyone's job. From lead pastor to greeters, everyone has a part to play," said Brad Kitchen, president and owner of Ft. Sherman Academy who traveled to Mississippi for the seminars. "The greatest challenge in safety and security



**TIME TO PROCESS** — During the Church Safety Seminar hosted by Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, on January 9, participants took advantage of a break to process what had been taught by leadership from Fort Sherman Academy. (Photo by Tony Martin)

is to do it right. That begins with the support of leadership and as a ministry."

"The church safety team must function as a ministry by God's grace, making sure that the church remains an open environment where the body of Christ can gather together safely with minimal disruption and maximum continuity of ministry," added Jeffrey Dysart, a Ft. Sherman Academy trainer who accompanied Kitchen.

Ken Hester, senior pastor of First Church, Pontotoc, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, attended the Tupelo seminar on Jan. 23.

"Talking about security needs to be on-going and common, with all volunteers and congregational members all throughout the year for years to come," he pointed out. "Sheep won't feed if they are scared. A prepared church is a protected church. A protected church is not a paranoid church, but rather a church at peace."

Greg Warnock, pastor of

First Church, Brookhaven, and vice-president of the convention board, attended the Byram session on Jan. 24.

"The conference provided a complete 'How to Have a Security Ministry' plan. It also set a vision of how our security teams can also serve as first responders in cases of medical emergencies. We learned things we needed to do to improve our security. It was an excellent conference," Warnock reported.

Registration is \$25 per person and includes handouts and other materials. Lunch is also included. Seating is limited to 175 people at each venue with a maximum of five people per church, so early registration is encouraged. *Registration is online only.* at [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org).

For more information, contact Sandy Bell at [sbell@mbcb.org](mailto:sbell@mbcb.org). Telephone: (601) 292-3310 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. Web site: [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org).

The Church Safety Seminars are funded in part by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

## SCROLL

cont. from p. 1

Jim Sibley, a longtime Baptist representative in Israel who teaches at Israel College of the Bible, told Baptist Press that Jesus and His disciples may have operated according to the Qumran sect's calendar during the final week of His life.

That could explain "the apparent discrepancy" between the report in John 19:14 that Jesus died the day immediately preceding the evening of the Jewish Passover meal and the Gospels' account of Christ's eating the Passover meal the previous night, he said.

"The sign for the disciples as to where they would have the supper was a man carrying a pitcher of water," Sibley said in written comments. Presumably, the disciples found him in southwest Jerusalem, "the traditional site of the upper room."

Some scholars believe that

area was home to Essenes during the first century, leaving open the possibility the man was an Essene who observed the Passover according to the 364-day calendar.

A member of the Essenes may have "expressed faith in Jesus and joined the rest of His followers in Jerusalem," Sibley speculated.

The newly-translated calendar scroll, known as 4Q324d, "point[s] up the importance given to the calendar" in the first century, Sibley said. He added that while the Old Testament notes months of the Jewish calendar, it does not stipulate whether days of the months were to be calculated by the lunar method or the 364-day calendar.

Among other unique features of the scroll, it was written in code and references both biblical and extra-biblical Jewish festivals, wrote University of Haifa researchers Eshbal Ratzon and Jonathan Ben-Dov.

Their work overturned an earlier researcher's conclusion

that the fragments came from several different scrolls, according to the Journal of Biblical Literature article.

Lamar Cooper, a Criswell College professor who has helped excavate a cave where some Dead Sea Scrolls were located, told Baptist the latest translation "really excites" him because it validates the overall usefulness of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

"When the Dead Sea Scrolls were first found [in 1947], people thought they were not anything worthwhile," said Cooper, distinguished senior professor of Old Testament and archaeology. "Over the years, everything that comes out [of the Dead Sea Scrolls] affirms what the Bible says."

The Dead Sea Scrolls likely date from the third century B.C. to the first century A.D. and include important Old Testament manuscripts among about 900 documents written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Arabic, and Latin.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### DECEMBER 16-31

#### HONORS

Joseph S. Henderson  
Mr. Derek A. Henderson  
Terry Hickman  
Surgical Clinic Employees  
Ms. Fredda Hobgood  
Deborah SSC, FBC Vicksburg  
James, Ben, Anna, and Laura Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark McNair  
Jan, Cole, and Caroline Stinchfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark McNair  
Ms. Ernestine Jefcoat  
FBC Soso  
James Johnson  
Mrs. Shirley Clark  
Shelton (Buck) Jones  
Mr. Brad Bounds  
Ms. Marje Kirk  
Deborah SSC, FBC Vicksburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lambert  
Mrs. Miriam Riggins  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lamm  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour Lipscomb  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Libby Walker Lubas  
Mrs. Shirley Clark  
Rev. & Mrs. Allen Mapp  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob (Joyce) McCord  
Ms. Linda G. Hale  
Nancy McDaniel  
Mrs. Shirley Clark  
Major Chuck McNeal Madison  
County Detention Center  
Ms. Laura J. Leathers  
Mr. Sean Milner  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Hurdle  
Ms. Jeannette D. Kirby  
Ms. J. T. Morrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Judd A. Morrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Roane Hunter and Family

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Roddy Rumbley and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Poag and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Stewart and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Murray  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wilkinson  
Rev. & Mrs. Peyton Myers  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. Charles H. (Chip) Oswalt  
Ms. Jessica Ann Oswalt  
Ms. Jana Parrish  
Ms. Peggy A. Dendy  
Coach Bill Perry  
Mrs. Miriam Riggins  
Mrs. Jan Polk  
Mrs. Beth Lipsey  
Ms. Laura Pope  
Adah SSC, North Oxford BC  
Dr. & Mrs. Jimmy Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock  
Mrs. Katherine Prentiss  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Rev. & Mrs. Don (Peggy) Ray  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny R. Young  
Ms. Miriam Riggins  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill G. Lambert  
Mrs. Neoma Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Danna  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sengo  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock  
Mr. & Mrs. Mack Shelton  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Sue M. Smith  
Mrs. Catherine S. McNeace  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stokes  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stokes  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. James Stokes  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Thomas and Jeannell Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark McNair

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Ms. Dorothy L. Thomas  
Mrs. Judy Thomas  
Mr. Eddie Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. King  
E. J. "Bubby" Troclair  
Mr. & Mrs. Gino Gianfrancesco  
Mr. Bill Upton  
FBC Soso  
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Vandercreek  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Kelsa Walker  
Ms. Josie Hutton  
Dr. Betty Walsh  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mr. O'Neil Whatley  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. King  
Willard, Judy and Mac Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark McNair  
Phyllis Yarbrough William Justice  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron A. Yarbrough  
Ms. Sandra Yarbrough  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron A. Yarbrough  
Ms. Phyllis A. Yarbrough

### DECEMBER 16-31

#### MEMORIALS

Ms. Opel Ainsworth  
Ainsworth Family  
Mr. Michael Alvarez  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Jimmy Arthur  
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur  
Lamar Arthur  
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur  
Miss Laura Kate Ball  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Ball  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. (Buddy) Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Garner  
Ms. Sybil Belyue  
Mr. J. M. Floyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Shirley Bohannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bohannon  
Larry Bonds  
Ms. Barbara Curlee  
Ms. Hilda Bourne  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Purcell  
Mrs. Flo Boyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen  
Ms. Marilyn Brady  
Ms. Maxine Brock  
William Bryan  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Vick  
Mrs. Betty Burks  
Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Bennett  
Ms. Violet L. Blooe  
Ms. Betty Wise Burks  
Amanda Hutchison  
Peggy Lage  
Bridget Schultz  
Kay Burlison  
Mr. Gordon Burlison  
Mrs. Rita Carter  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Myra Caruth  
Ms. Barbara Curlee  
Billy, Reba & Betty Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Chapman  
Pamela Easley Connolly  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Crawford Jr.  
Mr. George H. Crawford, III  
Leah Kendall Cunningham  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Sirmon, Olivia & Cooper  
Paul Dykes  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Edgar and Dorothy Flowers  
Mr. Richard E. Flowers  
Randy Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Yvonne Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerby A. Evans  
Mrs. Virgie Farmer  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender, Jr.  
Mr. Charles "Buddy" Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. Bubba Foster  
Myrtice Fulton

Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Q. Garner  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Garner  
Loris Garner  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Garner  
Quinn Garner  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Garner  
Mr. George Garrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wise and Family  
Mr. Lloyd Gilmore  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen  
Ms. Rita Guerra  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Potter  
Mr. J. B. Haden  
Mrs. Gertrude A. Haden  
William Hargrove  
Crosby BC  
Hazel Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Volz  
Ben Harris  
Ms. Patricia W. Hogue  
Carl, Carr and Susan Haskins  
Mrs. Tena Haskins  
Mrs. Barbara Hazzard  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mr. Abb Morgan Henry Jr.  
Mrs. Abb M. Henry, Jr.  
Faye Herring  
Boswell Regional Center  
Pine Lake Geriatric Services  
Katherine Hester  
Ms. Sandra Mackay  
B. A. Hill  
Cindy Hatten  
Carla Osborne  
Maurice Hill  
Mrs. Mary M. Hill and Family  
Mr. Jerry Hogue  
Mr. & Mrs. James Harris  
Elizabeth Howard  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Virginia Hunt  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Fulton  
Kay Hussey  
Ms. Barbara Curlee  
Jan Gregg Hutchins  
Ms. Linda K. Spencer  
J. L. Irvin  
Mrs. Jean Taylor  
Mr. Tom Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen  
Mr. Bob Tom Johnson Jr.



Shannon and Robin Patterson, Co-Presidents of the Krewe of Ceres in Brookhaven, Mississippi, present Celeste Cade Hickman, BCV Public Relations Manager with a \$1,000 check to benefit the ministry.

Dr. & Mrs. Bob Tom Johnson  
Carolyn Johnson  
Mrs. Sheila Huffman  
Ms. Amy Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
John T. Keeton  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson  
Ms. Clara Faye Lenhart Keith  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Kreiger  
Mrs. Peggy H. Keyes  
Ms. Kimble R. Keyes  
Ms. Carmelita Kitchens  
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Gordon  
L. T. and Doris Ramshur  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Douglas  
Arthur Lagg  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark McNair  
Ms. Valerie Lucius Lambert  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Palmer  
Mrs. Sadie Langford  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerby A. Evans  
Dr. LeDon Langston  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen

Mr. David Nathan Legge  
Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie  
Mr. & Mrs. Ira F. Legge  
Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie  
Joyce Livingstone  
Ms. Faye C. Hollingsworth  
Mrs. Betty Logan  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wise and Family  
Mr. Lawrence W. Long III  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr.  
Jackie Lord  
Nay B. Reed  
Mrs. Carzella Expose Lowe  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith  
"Little Jack" Manor  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Ms. Leigh Ann Marquis  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Pope  
Dylan Lakota Martin-Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Gale N. Johnson

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## Delivered • Acts 20:22-35

Several years ago, I visited the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus and it was an unforgettable, life-changing trip. As our group walked down the main street of this formerly magnificent city, we noticed in the stone entry way of many homes, deeply carved images of a fish, much like we see on the backs of cars today. I remember becoming emotional, for these were not cute little car emblems but bold, fearless statements to those who entered, that here lived a person who followed Christ. They were brought to this knowledge and faith by faithful servants of God like Paul and John. Today's lesson indicates how much Paul loved the Ephesians. Knowing he would never see them again he desperately needed to share an important message.

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem knowing this trip would not end well. While most of us avoid affliction and conflict, Paul raced toward it. He said, "In every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me," Acts 20:2. Paul's visit to Jerusalem was not going to be safe yet he knew his purpose was to finish his course for the kingdom of God and which included going to Jerusalem. Paul trusted God.

He also knew the enemy would assault the churches he loved and he

needed to deliver a warning to the people of Ephesus. Knowing he would not be able to physically go to Ephesus, while his ship ported in Miletus, he called for some Ephesian disciples to meet with him to speak a message, and say goodbye. When someone speaks their final thoughts to someone they love, words are not wasted:

"I know that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure the disciples into following them." Acts 20:29-30 (CSB)

As I read those words, I envisioned the carved fish on the doorsteps and imagined the families who would have to discern between truth and lies within their church after Paul and John were no longer preaching. I then considered the 21st Century church. We are now those people and Paul's warning is as applicable to us as it was to those in ancient Ephesus.

The enemy is crafty but not very

creative. He is currently invading our congregations just as Paul warned the Ephesians. More and more, the truth of what we read in the Bible is being distorted by these savage wolves to resemble more of what society desires rather than the truth. Some congregations have compromised God's Word so not to offend anyone while some

church leaders have blatantly changed what the Bible says to fit their own agenda. Hundreds of years ago,

Paul warned against this very thing. This same warning calls out to us: "be on the alert."

It didn't take the enemy very long after Paul's exit to begin distorting God's word and luring the congregation of Ephesus and surrounding churches to false beliefs. In his letters, Paul goes as far as calling some of the "savage wolves" by name. This was not just in Ephesus but was widespread among all the churches as we also read Peter, James and Jude's pleadings to "contend for the faith!" The

enemy wanted to destroy God's Kingdom and Paul spoke boldly because he knew defending the Kingdom of God was more important than protecting the feelings of a few. Would that we would heed his words. Our seventh lesson for the missional church: Be Alert! Not everything that sounds good is truth! Be biblical in sharing.

This warning must have fallen on deaf ears, for the angel in the book of Revelation wrote the first letter to the church at Ephesus. (Rev.2) They were lured into thinking doing good things was enough. They had lost their love and had forgotten that Jesus was the reason for it all. Doing good and purposeful things does not make a great church. What makes a church great is Jesus and the truth of His Word.

If we fail to understand truth and intentionally seek it, we will find ourselves falling for what sounds good but is far from God's plan. The warning in both Paul's words to his friends, and the angel's words in Revelation should serve as a warning for the church today. We have savage wolves in our midst. We need to recognize them and remain alert!

Grace is a Bible teacher and conference speaker and is a member of First Church, Clinton.



### Explore the Bible

with Cyndi Grace

## I Am a Minister • II Corinthians 3:4-12

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, there are nearly 172,000 words in the English language. While that is an impressive number, perhaps what is more staggering is the fact the average person only uses about 5,000 words. The problem is not in the word reservoir, the problem is people's lack of concern to broaden their vocabulary and utilize different words. Even with this deficit, the dictionary adds new entries each year. Among those recently added: froyo (short for frozen yogurt), concealed carry, alt-right, and trolling.

What if there were a Baptist Dictionary? Surely included in the volume would be the words potluck, unspoken prayer requests, special music, and others. What about the word "minister?" I am sure the word minister would make the cut, but here is the challenge: who and how would it be defined? Is a minister of only one gender? Does one have to be ordained or a seminary graduate to earn the title of minister? Is it a title, anyway? Thankfully, there is an easy answer to these questions. Each and every one of us are called to be ministers of the gospel. You don't get paid by the church? No problem! Are you lacking a snazzy title in your name? Don't worry about it! Just get busy serving.

People can become so bogged down or enamored with titles, recognition, and appearances that needed ministry is neglected. Each member should be expected to step up to the plate and serve. Wouldn't it be great if the greatest problem your Nominating Committee faced was too many people wanting to do too many things? Sadly, the opposite is true. People have to be coaxed or pleaded into serving. This is shameful and all too common. Too many times this leads to someone serving in a role they are not designed for, or even worse; they burn out and disappear from church altogether.

You may be thinking to yourself, "Then, what are we pay the Staff to do?" Great question. I have a fellow pastor-friend who serves a church with several hundred members, a total of four full-time pastors on staff, two ministry assistants and a few part-time employees. I asked him what the greatest need in his church is. His re-

ply was, "more ministers in the pews." No matter how great your pastor or staff may be, it is impossible for them to meet all the needs of your church or community. They are not supposed to. When it comes to ministering to meet the needs of the church and community, it is the role of your pastor to lead you (yes, YOU) to discover, mature and practice the gifts and talents given to you by God. Of course, the pastor leads by word and deed,

but it is not a true biblical church model to expect the pastor to do it all.

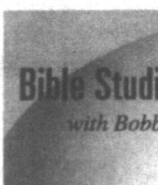
Look at it in this way: which job at your nearest Baptist

Hospital would you notice first if it ceased to exist: Nursing Assistants or Neurosurgeons? The answer is probably Nursing Assistants. While both roles vary in many ways, they each fill an essential role in quality health care. Only when we begin to see each member as a minister with equal value and choose to serve together, can we begin to unleash the potential

within the church body. All members are equally important in the ministry of the church. They each have a ministry and yes, they are ministers in every sense of the word. Minister means servant, and we should not shy away from it. Christ, our great and perfect example, came to serve. Are we better than He that we should avoid or dismiss our service unto Him?

One final reminder: ministry doesn't end after church services on Sunday. The greatest impact of ministry can often be experienced outside the walls of a church building. Encourage a school teacher by purchasing needed classroom supplies, donate blood, lead a devotion at the nursing home, pray with the grieving, cook a meal for the neighbors, babysit for a new mom who needs to get out the house for a bit. These are only a few examples and just words on paper. Add to this list and make these words come to life! As He works through you, your faith will deepen along with your relationship with God and others. Ask yourself this revealing question: What am I doing in service to others? Now quit reading and go serve!

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.



### Bible Studies for Life

with Bobby McKay

# 'Evangelical' term explored by LifeWay Research

NASHVILLE (BP) — About one in four Americans say they are evangelical Christians. Most of them are white, live in the South, and identify as Republican. Many go to church every week.

They're not always sure what they believe, but forty-five percent of respondents still said they strongly agree with core evangelical beliefs, according to a survey by LifeWay Research released Dec. 5.

"There's a gap between who evangelicals say they are and what they believe," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, the Nashville-based research arm of Southern Baptists' LifeWay Christian Resources.

A significant number of evangelical believers reject the term "evangelical." Sixty-nine percent of evangelicals by belief self-identify as evangelicals.

For the past few years, LifeWay Research has been looking at the intersection of belief and belonging in the evangelical movement. Some research studies define "evangelical" by self-identification, with respondents picking from a list of religious traditions.

Other studies categorize people as evangelical by the churches with which they identify.

In this new survey, LifeWay used a set of four questions about the Bible, Jesus, salvation, and evangelism that were developed in partnership with the National Association of Evangelicals. Those who strongly agree with all four are considered to be evangelicals by belief.

■ The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.

■ It is very important for me to personally encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

■ Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.

■ Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.

Fifteen percent of Americans are evangelicals by belief, according to LifeWay Research. By contrast, 24% of Americans self-identify as evangelicals.

Researchers found some significant differences between the two groups. Evangelicals by belief are more diverse than self-identified evangelicals. From the standpoint of beliefs, 58% are white, 23% are African American, and 14% are Hispanic. Five percent claim another ethnicity.

By contrast, 70% of self-identified evangelicals are white, 14% are African Americans, 12% are Hispanic, and four percent claim another ethnicity.

Evangelicals by belief go to church more often. Seventy-three percent say they attend services once a week or more. That drops to 61% for self-identified evangelicals.

Fifty-five percent of evangelicals by belief live in the South. Twenty-two percent are in the Midwest. Sixteen percent are in the West. Six percent are in the Northeast. Among self-identified evangelicals, 48% live in the South. Twenty-five percent live in the Midwest. Seventeen percent live in the West. Nine percent live in the Northeast.

"If you are an evangelical who lives in the South, you're often going to run into people who believe the same things you do," McConnell said. "In the Northeast, you're often going to feel alone."

Two-thirds of evangelicals by belief are Republicans or lean Republican, while 30% are Democrats or lean Democratic and four percent are undecided or independent. Among self-identified evangelicals, 64% are Republicans or lean Republican, 33% are Democrats or lean Democratic, and three are undecided or independent.

Both groups also tend to be older, with 31% of Americans ages 65 and older identifying as evangelicals. That drops to 22% among those ages 18-34. Meanwhile, 19% of those ages 65 and older hold evangelical beliefs, dropping to 10% for those 18-34.

The more education Americans have, the less likely they are to be evangelicals of either type. More than a quarter of Americans with a high school diploma or less or some college identify as evangelicals, whereas 18% of those with a bachelor's degree say they are evangelicals.

Americans with some college (20%) are more likely to have evangelical beliefs than those with a bachelor's degree (nine percent) or graduate degree (12%).

Some of the results surprised McConnell, especially when it came to politics. He expected more political differences between the two types of evangelicals. "The political differences between them turn out to be very small," he said.

LifeWay Research also asked if politics played a role in whether Americans identify as evangelicals. It appears that few evangelicals shun the term because of its political implications.

When asked, "If the term had nothing to do with politics, would you consider yourself an evangelical Christian?" one in four Americans said yes — almost identical to the number of who identify as evangelicals without any political qualifications.

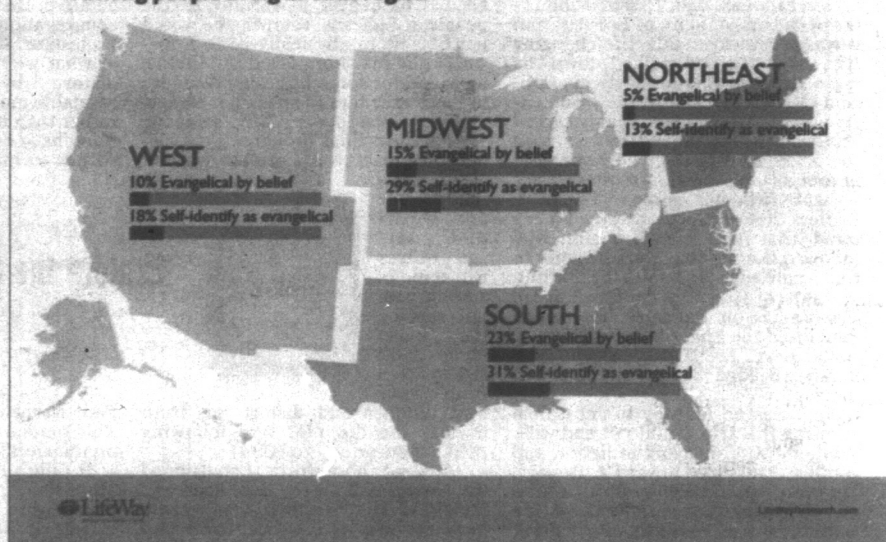
McConnell suspects that political party affiliation and race play a bigger role in how people vote than faith does.

"Evangelical religious beliefs by themselves do not explain political behavior," he said.

"Ethnic group is a better predictor of political behavior, but the best predictor of voting patterns is one's political party identification."

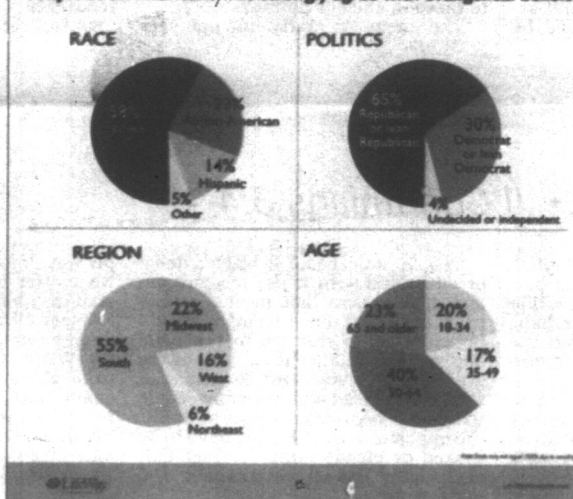
## EVANGELICALS ACROSS AMERICA

Among people living in each region



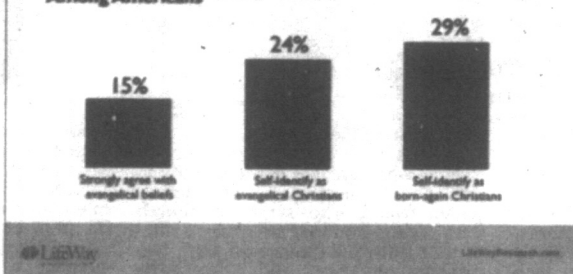
## EVANGELICAL BY BELIEF

Snapshot of Americans who strongly agree with evangelical beliefs



## EVANGELICAL BELIEFS AND IDENTITY

Among Americans



The term "born again" has often been used as a synonym for self-identified evangelicals. LifeWay Research found some overlap between the two groups.

Two-thirds of self-identified born-again Americans say they are evangelicals. That remains true even if the term evangelical didn't have political implications (67%).

Like self-identified evangelicals, fewer than half hold evangelical beliefs and they are less likely (56%) to attend services once a week or more than either type of evangelicals.

Born-again Americans have more political parity than either type of evangelicals. Fifty-six percent are Republican or lean Republican. Thirty-nine percent are Democrats or lean Democratic. Five percent are undecided or independent.

African American Christians appear to find the term "born again" more appealing than "evangelical." They are more likely to say they are born again (49%) than whites (27%), Hispanics (24%), or those from other ethnicities (19%).

African Americans are also the most likely to have evangelical beliefs (30%). Whites (13%), Hispanics (13%) and those from other ethnicities (nine percent) are less likely.

African Americans (30%) and whites (26%) are more likely to say they are evangelical than Hispanics (18%) or those from other ethnicities (11%).

McConnell said some research groups in the past limited the term "evangelical" to white Christians. Others have focused on white evangelical voters, which has left out other ethnic groups.

"For many African Americans, the term 'evangelical' is a turn-off, even though they hold evangelical beliefs," McConnell said. "The term 'evangelical' is often viewed as applying to white Christians only, and that's unfortunate. It's lost some of its religious meaning that actually unites these groups."